

Newspaper Clips **February 5, 2015**

IIT Delhi's Entrepreneurship Development Cell bullish on startups for placements

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/emerging-businesses/startups/iit-delhis-entrepreneurship-development-cell-bullish-on-startups-for-placements/articleshow/46127771.cms>

NEW DELHI: In its bid to promote entrepreneurship in the National Capital Region, the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi's Entrepreneurship Development Cell will be conducting a placement programme for students across disciplines, a move touted as the first such in India.

EDC-IIT Delhi has brought on board some of the country's top startups, a list that includes, News Corp-backed real estate portal PropTiger, TouchTalent, an online marketplace for creative talent, and video-based platform Frankly.me, which could potentially hire close to 300 students during course of the job fair, scheduled to be held later this month at IIT campus.

"Startups are always on the lookout for talent, and this event also helps in fostering the entrepreneurial environment in the Delhi-NCR region," said Navratn Singh, director of the IIT Delhi cell.

The placement programme could see engineering students from Delhi College of Engineering, often preferred pick of startups looking to build further on technology platforms, duking it out with the best Delhi University has to offer, including students from high-profile colleges, such as Sri Ram College of Commerce, Lady Shri Ram College and Hansraj College.

"This isn't just for engineering students, or those with a tech background. It's for everybody who's looking to join startups in India," pointed out Ravish Ratnam, president, EDC-IIT Delhi. Additionally, SAIF Partners, Accel Partners and Matrix Partners -have signed up to participate in the programme.

IIT-M to study high-speed optical technology

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/iitm-to-study-highspeed-optical-technology/article6858589.ece>

The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras has partnered with Sterlite Technologies to support an advanced Ph D fellow and two M Tech/MS candidates in studying the field of design, development and advancement of application in high-speed optical communication technologies.

The agreement signed in Aurangabad at Sterlite's Centre of Excellence last week includes sponsorship of one Ph D fellow for a period of five years and two M Tech/MS candidates for two years, which may be continued for a period of five years.

The sponsorships are worth Rs. 25 lakh for Ph D and Rs. 20 lakh for the master's candidates, a release said.

Krishnan Balasubramanian, Dean of Industrial Consultancy and Sponsored Research, IIT-M, said: "Through this collaborative partnership we will explore new ideas and create unique solutions for broadband deployment in the country ."

According to Badri Gomatam, chief technology officer, telecom business at Sterlite, the effort is part of the company's commitment to the Central government's Digital India initiative. "We believe this partnership with the IIT-Madras will foster much-needed collaborative efforts in broadband technologies," he said.

Hindustan Times ND 05/02/2015 P-10

After US, Germany to team up with new IIT

Brajesh Kumar

■ Brajesh.kumar@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: After United States came forward to support the Indian Institute of Technology-Gandhinagar, Germany has offered to collaborate with other new IIT — IIT-Indore.

The collaboration, which will be formalised soon through an agreement between Germany and the human resource development ministry, will help IIT-Indore strengthen its research in various streams, including material science and electrical engineering.

The agreement will also facilitate the exchange of students and faculty between IIT-Indore and technical institutes in Germany.

Pradeep Mathur, director, IIT-Indore, confirmed the agreement was to be signed soon. "While we already have collaborations with a number of universities in Germany...this agreement will broaden the front of collaboration," he told HT.

THE AGREEMENT WILL FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS, FACULTY BETWEEN IIT-INDORE, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES IN GERMANY

IIT-Indore is one of the eight IITs set up by the UPA government in 2009 that has been identified for a foreign collaboration.

Earlier, the US agreed to lend technical support to IIT Gandhinagar. A joint declaration of intent was signed between the US Agency for International Development and the HRD ministry during US President Barack Obama's visit to India.

This collaboration between Indian higher education institutions and foreign countries is part of the NDA government's attempt at internationalisation of higher education, one of the themes of the new education policy recently announced by the HRD ministry.

Economic Times ND 05/02/2015 P-17

Startups to Gain from IIT Placements

Entrepreneurship Development Cell plans inter-disciplinary placement programme

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TouchTalent, an online marketplace for creative talent, and video-based platform Frankly.me, which could potentially hire close to 300 students during course of the job fair, scheduled to be held later this month at IIT campus.

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More Indian educational institutions open branches abroad

SANGEETHA G
Chennai

WITH a large chunk of young population, India is a high potential market for several international universities and institutes. But Indian education institutions are not just satisfied with the domestic market. Many of them are increasingly venturing out and opening their branches in other countries, as per a study by Technopak Advisors.

Among the institutions, a few prominent names include, Manipal University, Amity University, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, SP Jain Institute

of Management and Technology and Xavier Labour Relations Institute.

UAE is the most prospective market for most of these institutions. "A lot of Indian universities have opened branch campuses in the Middle East chiefly because of the large Indian expat population in these areas, and tax benefits like the availability of Free Trade Zones allocated for the purpose of higher education," said Aurobindo Saxena, associate director, education, Technopak Advisors.

Back home, the Indian higher education market has been marred with lot of challenges like not-for-profit structure, over regu-

lation and pending legislations. Therefore, the higher education players are looking for overseas opportunities, as they are able to set up for-profit institutions and hedge their revenues, he said.

"As any other commercial body, educational institutions too have to think about commerce and they will move where the demand is and locate themselves close to the students. Though several private entities have forayed into education, it is still not seen as a commercial activity but tagged as philanthropy in India. While one cannot blatantly make money, a student has to pay for quality

education," said N Chandramouli, CEO of TRA.

Manipal University which has campuses in Caribbean Islands, Dubai and Malaysia, offering medical, engineering and business management courses, finds that there is a demand for higher education and it is easier to set up, incorporate and run institutions in whichever markets they are present.

According to S Vaitheeswaran, MD and CEO of Manipal Global Education Services, it is not just the institution that benefits from having campuses globally; even the students in its Indian campuses too stand to gain.

"With online becoming a significant contributor today, providing students more flexibility and greater attention, it is also possible for them to access teachers in global campuses. The students also get more exposure as they can do part of their course in other campuses as well. The students in our overseas campuses too are keen to understand the rapidly growing Indian market," he said.

The global exposure also has made Manipal customize the content and courses to meet the changing requirements of the industry and launch more industry-specific courses.

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Prez paves way for varsity hirings, nod to Visitor's nominee panel

DHIRENDRA KUMAR

NEW DELHI: In a bid to resolve the alarming shortage of teachers, the Rashtrapati Bhavan has created a panel to expedite the appointment of faculties in all central universities. President Pranab Mukherjee has approved a five-member panel for each central varsity to represent in selection committee for appointment as Visitor's nominee. The step has been initiated after universities reported non-availability of Visitor's nominees in the selection process as major roadblock in appointment of teachers.

"Non-availability of Visitor's nominees in the selection committee of faculty has been addressed. Each central university will now have a panel of five names of nominees who can be called as per extant instructions," President Pranab Mukherjee said, while opening the third conference of vice chancellors of central universities at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday.

"With the constitution of Visitor's nominee panel, the President has finalised the names of 200 members 40 central universities, who will be available to take part in appointment committee meetings, the staff shortage is likely to be resolved very soon," an HRD official said.

Addressing VC, the President said, "The vacancy position in central universities remains alarmingly high, in terms of percentage, vacancies have increased from 37.3 per



Vacancy in central universities remains alarmingly high, in terms of percentage, vacancies have increased from 37.3 per cent as to 38.4 per cent

PRANAB MUKHERJEE

cent as on March 31, 2013 to 38.4 per cent as on December 1, 2014." The faculty crisis in premier technical and management institutes is watering down Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dreams to produce quality technocrats. According to the report, there are approximately 39 per cent and 22 per cent vacancy in teaching positions in 16 Indian Institutes of Technology and 13 Indian Institutes of Management respectively. The reasons for faculty shortage are retirement, resignation,

increase in students' intake and non-availability of qualified candidates for taking up teaching assignments.

There are only 4,087 teachers against the total approved strength of 6,653 for IITs, while there are only 598 teachers against the total approved strength of 766 for IIMs. However, in the premier management institutes, the student teacher ratio is far better than IITs. There is one professor for every six students, while in IITs the ratio is 17 to one.

Japanese universities woo Indian students

AMIT MITRA

Hyderabad, February 4

Japanese universities are going all out to give their American and European counterparts a run for their money in wooing Indian students for higher studies.

Their unique selling proposition: Study in a top notch university in Japan for nearly half the cost of studying in the West.

And backing their efforts are a clutch of top Japanese brands, such as Sony, Canon, Toshiba and Mitsubishi, which are sweetening the offer by promising placements in Japan or in their Indian subsidiaries. More than 1200 Japanese companies are operating in India today.

Tokyo Declaration

The new initiative of the Japanese universities gained momentum with the ratification of the Tokyo Declaration for Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Abe in September last year. This was immediately followed up by the Japanese Government assigning University of Tokyo the task of Coordinator for Study in Japan Project (India) in October.

Subsequently, four Indian universities projects, including IIT, Hyderabad, were selected as Re-Inventing Japan Project, which includes student exchange programmes.

As a next step, ten Japanese universities, led by UTokyo,

along with Japanese corporate houses, are holding a series of Japan Education summits in India. "We intend to double the number of Indian students in Japan from the current level of 500 in the next five years. Today even, Nepal and Bangladesh have more students in Japan than India," Miki Matsuo, Project Coordinator, Japan International Cooperation Agency, told *BusinessLine* on the sidelines of the Japan Education Summit here.

Study cost

Currently, China accounts for more than 60 per cent of the total foreign students studying in Japan, around 1.35 lakhs, followed by Korea and Vietnam. Daisuke Kodama, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan, India, said the cost of pursuing higher studies in a Japanese university ranges from ₹10 lakh to ₹13 lakh annually, including hostel fees.

"This is half the cost an Indian student would pay to pursue the same course in Western universities. And Japanese universities have world class research facilities," UB Desai, Director of IIT, Hyderabad, pointed out.

JICA is establishing a new PhD scholarship at Japanese universities for graduates of IIT, Hyderabad, based on an agreement between the countries, aimed at enhancing research network between higher educational institutions and industrial clusters of Japan and IIT, Hyderabad.

'Colleges not yet serious about approval from AICTE'

Jeevan Prakash Sharma

Delhi University (DU) colleges offering BTech courses still do not have clear answers on AICTE approvals. While representatives of some colleges say they don't know if the university would seek approvals from AICTE or each college would have to make individual efforts, the principal of one DU college suggested it was best if the university approached AICTE for approvals for all colleges as "all problems then would be solved in one go."

When HT Education spoke to former AICTE chairman SS Mantha, then still in office, he had said, "The University doesn't come (to AICTE) for approval to run a technical course in an affiliated college. Each college will have to apply for approval and AICTE will consider each application separately. Till now, no college has made any application. They can apply online with the requisite documents for approval."

AICTE, as a regulator for technical courses, did not know what DU colleges were teaching, the kind of infrastructure they had or whether they had the right faculty to teach these courses, Mantha had said.

Some DU colleges representatives, however, complained that they tried to get the approvals but could not fulfill some require-

ments for online applications. According to S K Garg, principal, Deen Dayal Upadhyay College, "First, the online application facility is for prior approval but we have already started these courses and want approvals in the middle of the session. Second, for online application, a college has to declare that it admits students through entrance exams, but all DU college admissions are on the basis of cut-off percentages. Third, colleges have admitted non-science background students for BTech in computer science. AICTE norms don't allow non-science background in any BTech course. We cannot apply online because of these reasons."

Avinash S Pant, AICTE's chairman (acting) suggests that if Delhi University colleg "Once these colleges get user ids and passwords, the AICTE approval process and inspections of faculty and infrastructure will begin," says Pant.

Some experts say that the provisions of Grants of Approvals for Technical Institutions Regulations 2010 of AICTE give it the power to relax approval processes.

"A very senior AICTE official has drawn my attention towards Regulation 2010 which says that the Council may in exceptional cases (for removal of hardship or other reasons to be recorded in writing) relax any of the provisions of these regulations in respect of any class or category of institutions," suggests KK Khanna, a senior citizen, who has been running from pillar to post to seek help for a grandchild pursuing BTech course in a DU college.

Khanna has filed several RTIs with UGC, AICTE and MHRD, but has not received a straight reply about how the crisis is to be resolved.

"I wrote a letter to the prime minister and the president of India but nothing has happened till now," he says.

The parent of another DU college student complains, "The problem is that DU colleges are not interested in making the extra effort to get AICTE approval. They don't realise that the problem is jeopardizing the career of 6,000 bright students."

FACE OFF

■ DU colleges complain that they tried to get AICTE approvals but could not fulfil some requirements for online application

■ Avinash S Pant, AICTE's chairman (acting) suggests that colleges can meet AICTE's approval bureau to get online approval resolved



Times Of India ND 05/02/2015 P-21

Has US begun regulating business on the Moon?

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American Cos Can Now Stake Claim To Lunar Territory

Cape Canaveral: The US government has taken a new, though preliminary, step to encourage commercial development of the Moon. According to documents obtained by Reuters, US firms can stake claims to lunar territory through an existing licencing process for space launches.

The Federal Aviation Administration, in a late-December letter to Bigelow Aerospace, said the agency intends to "leverage FAA's existing launch licensing authority to encourage private sector investments in space systems by ensuring that commercial activities can be conducted on a non-interference basis".

In other words, experts said, Bigelow could set up one of its proposed inflatable habitats on the Moon, and expect to have exclusive rights to that territory — as well as related areas that might be tapped for mining, exploration and other activities.

However, the FAA letter noted a concern flagged by the US state department that "the national regulatory framework, in its present form,



LAND WARS ALL OVER AGAIN?

is ill-equipped to enable the US government to fulfil its obligations" under a 1967 UN treaty which, in part, governs activities on the Moon.

The UN Outer Space treaty, in part, requires countries to authorize and supervise activities of non-government entities operating in space, including the Moon. It also bans nuclear weapons in space, prohibits national claims to celestial bodies and stipulates that space exploration and development should benefit all coun-

tries. "We didn't give (Bigelow) a licence to land on the Moon. We're talking about a payload review that would potentially be part of a future launch licence request," said the FAA letter's author, George Nield. The letter expands FAA's scope from launch licensing to US firms' activities on Moon. The FAA's decision "doesn't mean there's ownership of the moon," Bigelow said. "It just means somebody else isn't licenced to land on top of you." REUTERS

Times Of India ND 05/02/2015 P-21

Meet robo-scientist Eve who can make drug discovery fast

London: An artificially-intelligent 'robot scientist' has discovered that a compound shown to have anti-cancer properties can also be used in the fight against malaria, UK researchers say. The robot scientist, named Eve, could make drug discovery faster and much cheaper.

SMART MEDS

Robot scientists can automatically develop and test hypotheses to explain observations, run experiments using laboratory robotics, interpret the results to amend their hypotheses and then repeat the cycle.

In 2009, Adam, a robot scientist developed by researchers at the Universities of Aberystwyth and Cambridge, became the first machine to independently discover new scientific knowledge. The same

team has now developed Eve, based at the University of Manchester, whose purpose is to speed up the drug discovery process and make it more economical.

"Eve exploits its artificial intelligence to learn from early successes in her screens and select compounds that have a high probability of being active against the chosen drug target," said Professor Steve Oliver from the Cambridge Systems Biology Centre and the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Cambridge. "A smart screening system, based on genetically engineered yeast, is used. This allows Eve to exclude compounds that are toxic to cells and select those that block the action of the parasite protein while leaving any equivalent human protein unscathed." PTI

Largest rat was as big as a buffalo

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London: The world's largest rat was as big as a buffalo with the bite as strong as that of a tiger. The largest rodent ever to have lived may have used its front teeth just like an elephant uses tusks, a new study by scientists at the University of York and The Hull York Medical School (HYMS) has found.

Josephoartigasia monesi, a rodent closely related to guinea pigs, lived in South America approximately three million years ago. It is the largest fossil rodent ever found, with an estimated body mass of 1,000 kg and was similar in size to a buffalo.

Dr Philip Cox of the Centre for Anatomical and Human Sciences used computer modelling to estimate how powerful the bite of Josephoartigasia could be. He found that, although the bite forces were very large, the incisors would have been able to withstand almost three times that force.

आईआईएम, आईआईटी में छात्रों की 50 फीसदी फीस सरकार देगी

भास्कर न्यूज़ | जयपुर

आईआईटी, आईआईएम, एनआईटी और ट्रिपल आईटी समेत केंद्र सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय स्तर के किसी भी शैक्षणिक संस्थान में पढ़ रहे प्रदेश के निम्न आय वर्ग के छात्रों को फीस में 50 प्रतिशत छूट इसी वित्त वर्ष से मिलने लगेगी। उच्च शिक्षा विभाग ने इस बारे में प्रस्ताव वित्त विभाग को भेजा था, जिसे मंजूरी मिल गई है। योजना के लिए मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष के लिए 2 करोड़ रुपए की राशि स्वीकृत हुई है। अगले वित्त वर्ष के लिए लाभार्थियों की संख्या के हिसाब से यह राशि बढ़ाई जा सकेगी।

उच्च शिक्षा विभाग की इस योजना के क्रियान्वयन की जिम्मेदारी सामाजिक न्याय एवं आधिकारिता विभाग को सौंपी गई है। इसके लिए सामाजिक न्याय विभाग के डायरेक्टर की अध्यक्षता में कमेटी गठित कर दी गई है। कमेटी तय करेगी कि योजना के लिए छात्रों से ऑन लाइन आवेदन मांगे जाएं या ऑफ लाइन। सरकार की इस योजना के तहत छूट उन्हीं छात्रों को मिलेगी जो प्रदेश के मूल निवासी हैं। साथ ही उनके माता-पिता की सालाना कुल आय पांच लाख से कम है। ऐसे बच्चों को यदि पहले से कोई स्कॉलरशिप मिल रही है तो उसे सरकार बंद नहीं करेगी। बल्कि स्कॉलरशिप की राशि घटाकर पचास फीसदी फीस की बाकी राशि भुगतान करेगी।